the Link

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INSIDE

Women's basketball season ends unexpectedly (page 7)

Budget cuts will hurt low-cost housing

by Paul Hainsworth

The federal government's budget cuts will encourage the development of slums, says the Co-op Housing Federation of Canada.

Last Monday's budget will drain $308 million over three years from the federal government's $2.1 billion fund for existing affordable housing.

The cuts mean housing co-ops will be unable to set aside cash for maintenance and repair, leading to their steady decline.

"The cut is in replacement reserves—maintenance—so five or six years later, you'll have a slum," said Paul André Baril, government relations officer at the Federation.

"You need to put money aside so when repairs are needed, you can make them.

"But the mortgage won't get lower, the electricity won't get lower, so you cut where you have control: maintenance."

Many affordable housing advocates feel the Liberal government abandoned an election promise to support affordable housing.

"Let me make it abundantly clear that a Liberal government is committed to stable and secure funding for the non-profit and co-operative housing sectors," said Finance Minister Paul Martin last year.

But in his first budget, Martin froze spending on social housing. Ironically, when the Conservatives were in power, the Liberal opposition strongly criticized them for the same sort of regressive policies.

"The federal budget just confirmed the government doesn't give a damn about social housing," said Pierre Gaudreau, an expert on Montreal housing issues for the Front d'Action Populaire à Réaménagement Urbaine, a Montreal-based housing rights group.

But it is not just interest groups who are critical of Canada's housing situation.

While the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. (CMHC) stated in a press statement last fall that "Canadians are the best housed people in the world," a United Nations committee was critical of Ottawa's lack of funding of social housing:

"Given the evidence of homelessness and inadequate living conditions,the committee is surprised that expenditures on social housing are a low as 1.3 per cent of government expenditures."

And in the CMHC report, which was absent from its two page news release, it admitted that, "one in eight Canadians live below acceptable housing standards," and additional but unknown numbers of people are homeless.

So when the federal government considered hiking social housing rents from 25 per cent of family income to 30 per cent, housing activists were outraged.

A look at the figures of a 1991 census explains why:

- More than a third of Canadian renters spend more than 30 per cent of their incomes on shelter
- 16 per cent of renters spend more than half their income on shelter, and 33.2 per cent of these people live in Quebec
- The Federation des Co-operatives d'Habitation de l'Isle de Montréal has a waiting list of 10,000 people seeking co-op residence
- Canada has 680,000 social housing units while there are 110,000 in Quebec
- There are 85,000 co-op units in Canada, with 14,000 in Toronto.

In Montreal, 200 housing co-op members protested two weeks ago against the proposed rent increase to 30 percent of personal income.

A five percent increase of the benchmark results in a 20 per cent rent increase for many in social housing.

"The federal government didn't do it (increase percentage) themselves, but are encouraging the provinces to do so," said Gaudreau. So far, all the provinces have made the increase, except Quebec.

Housing co-ops are operated and maintained by their tenants. Instead of the traditional tenant-landlord relationship, members are responsible for basic chores, bureaucracy and maintenance.

Co-ops receive funding from joint provincial and federal government subsidies. Part of it goes to paying off the mortgage while minimum amount must go to subsidizing its tenants.

Subsidized tenants receive payments to bring their rental costs down to the benchmark for affordable housing in Canada.

Jean Sebastien, a member of FECHIM and the Rosemont area housing co-op Habitanou, says co-operative housing is one of the most effective forms of low-cost housing.

"It's effective because over and above subsidies come all the work of people in the co-ops. The co-op also helps develop workers skills they wouldn't develop otherwise," Sebastien said.

Residents at Habitanou learn skills related to managing the building to handling money and secretarial work.

"We try to use as much of the members' skills before going to outside help," he said. For example, when the co-op needed work done on the roof, they pooled their resources.

"We could have taken a contractor to do this, but a bunch of us got together to do it.

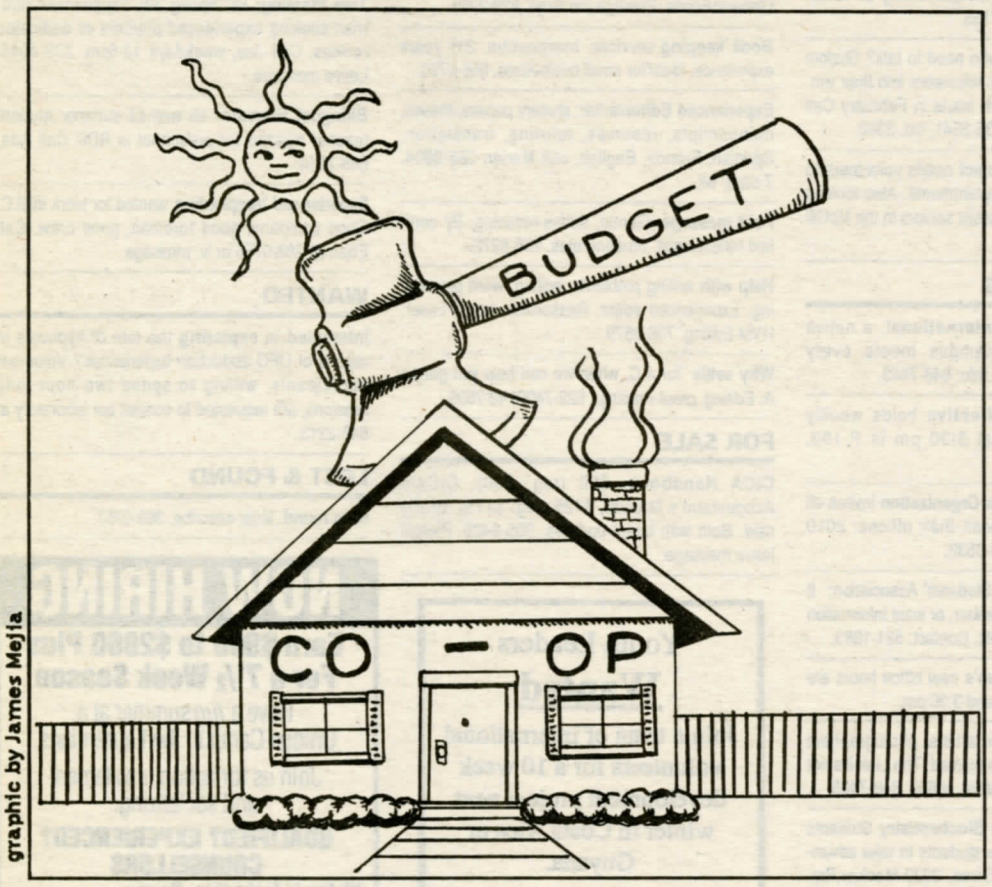
"It also helps develop one's political life," he said. "We're a democratic institution so we have general assemblies that familiarize yourself with this very important democratic tool."

Cheaper rent is the major benefit for many residents. At Habitanou, subsidized rents are as low as $90 for a 4 1/2 and $397 for unsubsidized apartments.

But with increased rents, many will begin to question the value of co-op lifestyle.

"People on a volunteer basis put hours and hours into the co-op," said Baril of the Federation. "They do that because what they do and decide can make a difference. As government get more intrusive (with budget cuts), people lose all incentive for running a co-op.

"They ask what am I doing here? The budget has cost people because they will become disinterested and disinvolved."



graphic by James Mejia

Briefly

Equality will need to be reinforced in the advent of a sovereign Quebec, agreed women of different backgrounds in last Wednesday's sovereignty forum held at Hotel des Gouverneurs.

The Fédération des Femmes du Québec (FDQ) encouraged women in the audience to answer the Québec government's invitation to create their own preamble to the proposed sovereignty bill.

Cara Robertson, a member of a Montreal-area women's centre, said that women are typically excluded from constitutions as they only refer to males. She said that this must be different for Québec.

"The preamble must refer to both Québécois and Québécoise," she said.

In their leaflet, the Federation affirms that a real equality between the sexes is required in more than just theory and that it must also be applied to Quebecers of different origins.

"My parents and grand-parents also help build this country," said Catherine Roston, an anglophone Quebecker and local AIDS activist who said she feels discriminated against by the Parti Québécois.

Jeanne Blackburn, Quebec's minister in charge of the Status of Women responded by saying that the anglophone population would be protected in a sovereign Quebec.

"Anglophones will, as they already do, have a right to their institutions such as schooling and hospitals like the Royal Victoria," Blackburn said. "But the common language of communication will be French."

Other women at the forum agreed that Quebec's new constitution would have to include a charter of rights and responsibilities.

"The right to the freedom of expression in the Canadian Charter of Human Rights does not protect us from child pornography and exploitation," one woman said. "We have many rights but we must act responsibly."

The last forum on sovereignty for the Montreal region will be held at Cégep du Vieux-Montréal on Sunday, March 5.

— Annik M. Lussier

Student levy or poll tax?

A proposal was presented at last night's CSU council meeting, proposing that all students, regardless of how many courses they take, pay the same amount of money in student levies. Currently, students are charged $1.80 per credit to pay for things such as clubs and orientation week. The proposal would set the levy at $18.00 per student, per semester. This would be cheaper for students taking a full courseload, but more expensive for part-timers. The motion was deferred to a separate committee for discussion.

—Mitch Amihod

AGENDA

The Agenda is a free service to publicize events of interest to the Concordia community. Priority is given to non-profit and student groups. Drop off your info at our office, room H-649 in the Hall building, or mail it, to *the Link*–Agenda. Deadlines are 4pm, Friday for Tuesday issues, and 4 pm Wednesday for Friday issues.

Friday, March 3

How do I Look: Women's Film, Video & Sound Festival Screenings. 6 pm, VA-110. Free.

Saturday, March 4

Eyewitness Report-The TruthAbout The Cuban Revolution. A public forum with particpants from the International Youth Brigade just returned from Cuba. 7:30 pm, 4581 St. Denis. Pay what you can.

Wrap Party for How do I Look: Women's Film, Video & Sound Festival. DJ's, dancing & video. 10 pm, 10 Ontario W, Suite 408.

Sunday, March 5

Gender Issues Symposium sponsored by the North American Jewish Students Network. Registration begins at 9:30 am, Exhibition Hall, 1590 Dr. Penfield. $5. Info: Bena, 282-6681.

In Harmony, a benefit concert for the Centre for AIDS Services Montreal (Women) on the 20th anniversary of International Women's Day, featuring choirs from Miss Edgar & Miss Cramps, Sacred Heart, The Study, Trafalgar, Villa Maria & Modulation Women's Chorale. 2 pm, Erskine & American Church, 3407 du Musée. $10.

Women & Economic Development : Conference sponsored by the Women's Action Network. NDG Centre de la Culture. Information: Christine Rossel, TANDEM, 489-6567

Monday, March 6

Sexuality and Safer Sex, a workshop on safe sex for women. 2020 Mackay, P-03. Info: 848-7431.

Tuesday, March 7

Acte Photographique/ Art Contemporain. A benefit exhibition for the Montreal Assault Prevention Centre. Maison de la culture Frontenac, 2550 Ontario East. Continues to March 12.

Wednesday, March 8

How Do I Sound : Women's Audio Festival. Tune into CKUT 90.3 FM 9-10 pm. Free.

Biographical Sketches of Maritime Women, a lecture by Janet Maclellan Toole. 12 noon, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, 2170 Bishop.

Barriers to Employment. International Women's Day Workshop at the Women's Y, featuring Giselain Lapriefe of *Le Conseil des communautés culturelles et de l'immigration*, focusing on the obstacles women face internationally when seeking employment. 12 pm, Women's Y, 1355 René Lévesque, Rm 25.

Breast Cancer Information Session, followed by an interactive discussion with Niki Worrington of Breast Cancer Action & Dr. Michael Pollock. 1 pm, Women's Y, 1355 René Lévesque, Room 25.

Women & Literacy Reception includes prominent guest speakers and video presentations on women's literacy issues. 5:30-7:30 pm, 1355 René Lévesque, Holden Fisher Hall.

Honoured and Equal? Women Look at Jewish Law and Lturgy, a lecture and discussion led by Rabbi Carla Freedman. The lecture will follow a special women's service in honor of International Women's Day with Cantor Tracy Shuster. 7:30 pm, 4100 Sherbrooke West.

Bread and Roses: a benefit cabaret for the Women's March Against Poverty featuring Singer-songwriter Penny Lang, Comics Tina Mintz & Heidi Foss and many more women performers. Admission $7 ($3 for students and low income). 8 pm, Caesar's, 1608 Lincoln.

Thursday, March 9

Professor Lazlo Gèfin will discuss his recent trip to Russia. Sponsored by the Sparklers. 2:30 pm, H-937. Info: 848-7422.

The City as Dreamworld and Catastrophe. A lecture by Cornell Univeristy Political & Social Philosophy Professor Susan Buck Morss. 8 pm, H-937. Info: 848-2095.

Friday, March 10

Alta Voce: Revolutionary Creativity Women Reading Women. An evening of feminist/ Womanist performance & readings. 8 pm, 1407 St. Alexandre. All women welcome.

WOMEN

Women who are/ have been in abusive relationships with men: discussion & support goup begins March 4, 1-3 pm at the Concordia Women's Centre. Information: 848-7431.

Healing: Flying on Your Own, a group for women who are or have been in abusive relationships will be starting in March on Saturdays from 1-3 pm. Information & Registration: 848-7431.

Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Coming Out/ Support Group (18 to 25 yrs). Meets every second Wednesday. Info: Project 10, 989-4585 (1 to 5 pm).

SOS Violence conjugale. 24 hour crisis intervention and shelter referral. 873-9010.

Mouvement contre le viol: 842-5040.

24 Hour Hotline & Crisis Line, Montreal Sexual Assault Centre, 934-4504.

Montréal Assault Prevention Centre offers a self-defense course called ACTION for women. Techniques to help women deal with any type of aggression. To register call: 284-1212.

Centre des femmes de Montréal: Services de première ligne, 842-4780; Service aux femmes immigrantes, 842-0814; Option'Elle, 842-6652; Formation'Elle, 842-4776.

Centre for AIDS Services for Women needs volunteers. Info: 989-7997, Basia.

Montreal Sexual Assault Centre provides free counselling and emotional support, medical assessment and treatment, information on police and court procedures, court accompaniment, support groups for survivors and public education on sexual assault issues. Info: 934-4504.

Volunteers Needed for Parathèse, a unique playground for immigrant mothers & their children. Tuesday or Thursday 1-4:15 pm. Info: Cyndy, 934-0354, ext. 354.

Women's Spirituality: Irrepressible Spirit A series of videos and discussions exploring women's perspectives and experiences within various religious traditions. Tuesdays from 4:15-6 pm, Z-105.

Committee Against Human Life International: Women interested in planning a protest against the Montreal conference of this racist, anti-Muslim, anti-semitic, homophobic, anti-choice organization can leave messages for the committee against Human Life International at the Concordia Women's Centre, 848-7431.

Montreal Sexual Assault Centre needs volunteers for its 24 hour telephone crisis line. Concerned, bilingual women should call 934-4504, 934-9354.

Big Gals & Goddesses, wanna talk? A discussion group for big women . Whether you wear dresses or overalls, nylons or not. Info: 848-7431.

ACADEMIC

Free tutoring available to students who fail the University Writing test. Info: 848-2320.

Term Papers and written assignments? We can help you get started, organize ideas, identify problem areas. Counselling & Development: 848-3545.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Counselling Workshops on career and educational planning. Also, private & confidential counselling for personal, educational & vocational concerns. Info: Counselling & Development, 848-3545/3555.

Self-Knowing & Communication, a three-part afternoon workshop series to explore self-understanding, giving and receiving feedback, conflict styles an communication skills (series started Feb. 10). For registration and Information, call Daryl Lynn Ross, 848-3585.

Sign-language courses at the Montreal Deaf Community Centre. Placement tests are required. 65 de Castelnau. Info: TTY: 279-8535.

Sex and Spirit Collective a social justice group attempting to heal the divisions between our sexual and spiritual identities. Thursdays 4-6 pm, 2090 Mackay.

Parents Without Custody is a support group for separated or divorced parents without custody of their children. Call Nancy Montgomery,937-5351, local 48 to register.

Peer Helpers is a free, confidential listening service of students helping students. 2090 Mackay St. Info: 848-2859. Don't miss our Open House on Wednesday and Thursday, March 1 & 2.

Meditation: A Tool For Self-Knowledge. These sessions will draw upon various traditions and each will include a "quiet sitting". Wednesdays 12-1 pm, Annex Z. Info: Daryl Ross, 848-3585.

Start Keeping a Budget: Financial Aid & Awards offers personal budgeting information sessions on Mondays at 3 pm & Tuesdays at 11am. Please sign up in advance in the Financial Aid office LB -085.

Questioning your sexual orientation? Coming Out support group for men, confidential and friendly atmosphere. Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, 2090 Mackay, Room 02. For information or individual support call the Peer Helper Centre, 848-2859.

"Living On My Own" a program for people planning to live on their own for the first time. Info: Bruce, Head & Hands: 481-0277 or 481-3643.

Prison Visit Program: An eight-week program , in which students visit inmates at Archambault Prison. Participants should call to speak with a chaplain before entering program, Peter Coté, 848-3586, Matti Terho, 848-3590

Sign up now for workshops on communication skills, career & life planning, building relationships, study skills, loss and grieving support groups etc. For information, call Counselling & Development, 848-3545/3555.

HEALTH

Women and safer sex: A series of two-hour workshops to explore some of the issues that affect our choices about safer sex, including self-esteem, sexuality, and body image. Info: 848-7431.

Non-Nominal HIV Testing. The request for the test as well as the result are known only to your doctor. Info: Health Services, 848-3565, 848-3575.

Circumcision Info-Resource Centre provides information regarding non-religious circumcision, proper care of the infant foreskin & non-surgical foreskin restoration. Info: 848-9761.

GENERAL

Compeer Montreal, a community service which provides friendship and support to people with mental health problems, is recruiting volunteers 18 years or older to provide re-integration services to persons with mental illnesses. Info: 489-1007.

Tel-Aide needs volunteers to staff its telephone crisis line for people in distress. The line operates 24 hours a day, lending a sympathetic ear to Montrealers who are lonely, abused, out of work, emotionally scarred or suicidal. Info: 935-1105.

Outreach Experience: participants will work with children, teens, the poor or the sick. The activity and amount of time will depend on your interests and abilities. Information: Michelina Bertone SSA, 848-3591.

Meals On Wheels Program is seeking volunteers to assist in preparing and delivering home cooked meals for seniors living independently at home. Info: Rona 937-9471, ext. 155.

Care to listen to those who need to talk? Shalom line will be accepting new volunteers into their winter training program which starts in February Call Suzanne Herscovitch at 735-3541, ext. 3380.

Yellow Door Elderly Project needs volunteers to accompany seniors to appointments. Also looking for dog walkers who can assist seniors in the McGill Ghetto. Info: 398-6243.

STUDENT CLUBS

Indigenous Peoples International, a native solidarity group on campus meets every Wednesday, 7 pm, P-203. Info: 848-7443.

Concordia Queer Collective holds weekly meetings on Fridays at 5:30 pm in P-102. Information: 848-7414.

Latin American Students Organization invites all interested students to visit their offices. 2010 Mackay, Rm. 02. Info: 848-3532.

International Socialists Students' Association: If you'd like to become a member, or want information about meetings, actions, etc. Contact: 521-1983.

Concordia Outdoors Club's new office hours are Fridays between 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm.

Writers, editors, graphic artists, photographers and just plaing cool people wanted. The Link-it's not jsut a career; it's an adventure. H-649. 848-7405.

Concordia Chemistry & Biochemistry Students Assoc. is back and invites students to take advantage of its many new services. 2020 Mackay,Rm. 306 or call 848-7417.

Interested in paganism & witchcraft? Concordia Pagan Society is looking for new members. Come check us out every Monday night 9pm in the Hive.

MEDIA

Extra-rated Radio Show seeks spoken word/ poetry/ opinion submissions to read on air. Please drop them off at the station addressed to Rae. Information: 931-1880, 933-1418. No limits.

Ham Radio Meetings every Tuesday. Personal two-way radio, television, UHF/VHF, satellite and computer communications by ham radio. All Welcome. 7 to 9 pm, H-644-1. Info: 848-7421.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Rates: 20¢ per word for Concordia Arts & Science and Fine Arts undergraduate students; 25¢ per word for all others (plus applicable taxes). Deadlines are 4pm Friday for Tuesday issues, 4pm Wednesday for Friday issues. Classified advertising must be purchased in our offices in room H-649. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm. Ads must be accompanied by full payment. We do NOT take classified ads by phone, fax, or mail.

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Third World Experience in Cuernavaca, Mexico. August 2-16, 1995. For information, please call Michelina Bertone, S.S.A. 848-3591.

APARTMENTS

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LEISURE & RECREATION

New York Bed & Breakfast. $20 per person, Double occupancy. $12, dormitory of 4-6 persons. Just North of Central Park. Gisèle, 1-212-666-0559.

New York, N.Y.C. March 9 to 12. Easter 95, April 13 to 16-14 to 17 from $149 quadruple occupancy. April 13 to 17 from $179 quadruple including: video-coach, hotel, sightseeing, tax, representative. "Ask for our brochure." Pat, 354-3630 or 897-4017, pager. 5% off with this ad.

Spring skiing at Smugglers Notch on March 26. $35 includes lift ticket, transportation, apres ski at the Hive. Reserve now! Call Mike, 848-7482 or Toby, 684-7053.

HELP WANTED

Run your own business, gain valuable business experience while building your resumé. Earn up to $10,000 (25 jobs), high demand product, irrigation sales and installation. The ideal opportunity: vehicle required. Call Student Sprinklers at 1-800-265-7691.

Paid participation in hypnosis research. If you're interested, call the Concordia Hypnosis Lab at 848-2213. Monday - Friday, 12-2 pm.

Summer Jobs! Applications are now being accepted for summer jobs on cruiseships, airlines and resorts. No experience necessary. For more information, send $2 and a self-addressed stamped envelope to World Wide Travel Club, 5334 Yonge St, Suite 1407, Toronto, Ontario, M2N 6M2.

Tree Planting: BC Spring '95. Experienced foreman seeking experienced planters or dedicated rookies. Call Joe, weekdays 12-5pm. 278-4645, Leave message.

Bilingual Educator as well as summer student teacher needed for preschool in RDP Call Ada, 648-7944.

Experienced treeplanters wanted for work in B.C. Good company, good foreman, good crew. Call Elijah @ 288-0755 or lv. message.

WANTED

Interested in exploring the role of hypnosis in reports of UFO abduction experiences? Volunteer participants, willing to spend two hour-long sessions, are requested to contact our laboratory at 848-2213.

LOST & FOUND

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Electric cars to revolutionize transport

by Reid Cooper

Electric cars have been around since the turn of the century, but getting the technology off and running has been painfully slow. This year, Concordia engineering students won a provincial award for converting a Ford Escort's fuel-powered engine into an electric drive. But the move toward zero-emission cars in Canada remains in the prototype stages.

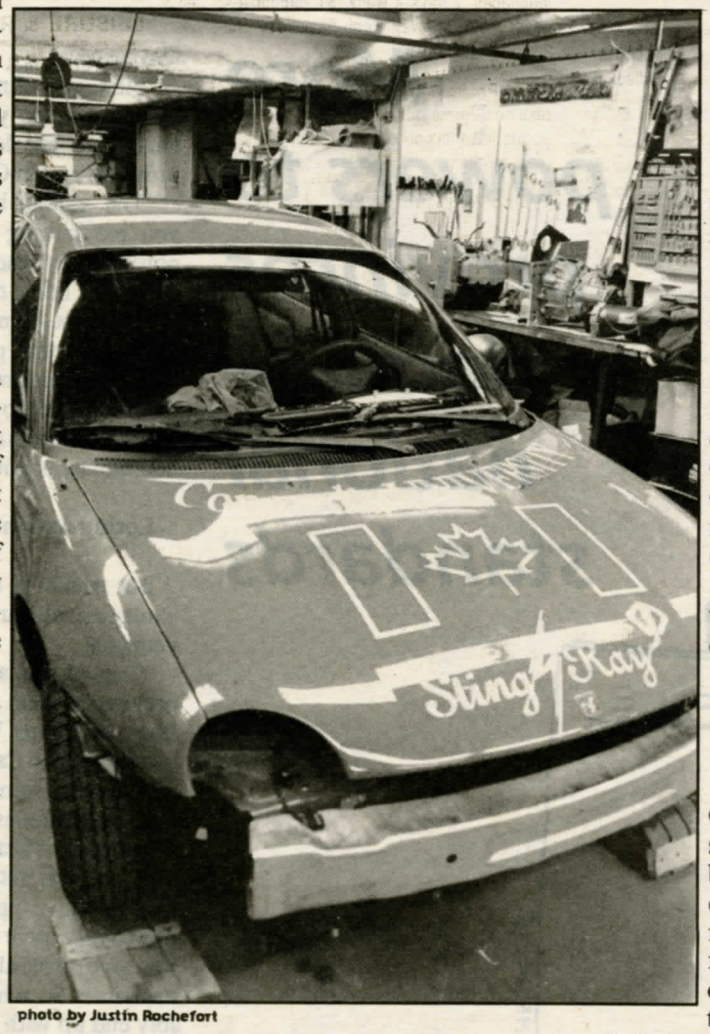


photo by Justin Rochefort

U.S. takes innovative lead

The California Clean Air Act stipulates that by 1998 at least two per cent of the vehicles in that state must have "zero emission" of toxic gases. New York and Massachusetts have adopted the California standard as law, and ten other eastern states have received permission from the Environmental Protection Agency to adopt it as well.

Canada, however, is floundering in the global drive to clean up car-generated pollutants. This, despite the fact that some of the leading innovators in electric cars are right here in Quebec, namely Hydro Quebec and Technologies M4.

Claude Guerette of Transport Canada was president of a recent colloquium on the electric car, organized by the Association Quebecoise Du Transport et des Routes Inc. He describes Canada's three-phase feasibility study for electric cars as "impressive sounding but rather small in scope"—only $200,000 has been allocated to the project each year. The study is being done in conjunction with National Resources Canada, Environment Canada and Transport Canada.

The first phase of the study, established between the federal government and Metropolitan Toronto, tests a Ford Ecostar (an electric car). The car is leased at a price of $135,000 for 30 months. Guerette says the car is being tested in Blainville, Quebec.

Concordia and the city of Montreal are supervising the second phase of the study, by producing a hybrid electrical vehicle and then evaluating it.

"The third phase will start in three months. It will study the electrical car's environmental impact, including infrastructure, parking, and servicing," Guerette said.

The $200,000 Canadian commitment is disappointing to environmentalists. The figure is pale compared to the $250 million which the American government and the auto industry have pledged to research on zero-emission cars. Of this money, Hydro Quebec and 3-M have received a $33 million contract from the United States Advanced Battery Consortium to produce a better battery.

Need for improved battery technology

Jean Francois Guilloteau, who represented Transport Quebec at the electric car colloquium, says ineffective batteries are the first challenge to the development of the electric car.

"The batteries that are now being produced are too heavy, too large, and don't hold enough energy. An electric car can travel 80 km on one charge, which limits its autonomy," he said.

Guilloteau says the 'hybrid car' is one short term solution to getting electric cars off the drawing board and onto the road.

"The hybrid auto is ideal for getting electric cars on the road, without having to set up a new infrastructure to incorporate the car into people's lives. The 100 per cent electric cars can not yet match the performance of a gaz powered car, and until then, there will be problems getting them on the road," Guilloteau said.

The structure of a normal car can already support the changes since hybrids have two engines, one run on either hydrogen or natural gas, the other by battery stored electricity. The petrol engine produces electricity which powers the car, the environmental advantage being that the steady rate of RPMs reduces the emissions of the car.

And hydrogen or natural gas emits far less toxins than ordinary petrol. Theoretically this engine would be used for longer journeys. The battery powered engine would be used in the city and eliminate that car's emissions during it's use.

The problem with the hybrid is the need for *commodius* batteries, generators and gas tank, which increase the size of the car. The explosive nature of hydrogen has also undermined this car's feasibility.

The fuel cell, in Guilloteau's opinion, offers a longer term solution. The cell is a battery which produces its own energy by way of chemical reactions. Ballard Power Systems in Vancouver has developed a minibus using the cell, and NASA's Gemini rockets produced electricity by way of the cell.

"The cell is great because there are no emissions, but its high cost and largeness prevent its widespread use. More technology is needed," Guilloteau said.

Guilloteau believes the best solution has come from Hydro Quebec and their subsidiary Technologies M-4. Their *Accep* battery and prototype car has drawn a $33 million contract.

"The M-4 technology provides a new way of looking at the car...There is no transmission, and there is one engine in each of the four wheels. Batteries in the trunk produce more torque than ordinary petrol," says Guilloteau.

Oil industry not pleased

In the $500 billion global automotive industry, electric cars are a threat. The Middle Eastern oil-producing countries stand to lose a lot of money if infinite car energy becomes reality.

The big three auto-makers in the U.S. stand to lose their firm grip on the auto market if new technologies allow for a simpler electric car. Not wanting to lose ground if the electric car succeeds, they are investing money in research and development, but are actively trying to undo California's Clean Air Act.

These same companies also claim that an electric car costs $100,000 to manufacture, and by 1998 will cost $12,000 to $20,000 more than a conventional car. Other American car manufacturers say they can sell an electric car for $15,000 to $45,000 dollars. Peugeot plans to make electric cars this year that will sell for less than $11,000.

Despite major opposition to electric cars, they are believed to be gaining in popularity. A May 1994 BusinessWeek article predicted electric cars would share 5 per cent of the sales of all cars in America by 2001 and that figure would rise to 10 per cent by 2003.

Closer to home, Hydro Quebec would like to see its M-4 electric cars dominate the streets in the near future. It promises they will cost only $220 a year to run, can generate 150 horse power, and will produce zero-emissions.

Conlan talks of British injustice

by Tim Pryor

Irishman Gerry Conlan has faced injustice normally reserved to countries with tyrannical dictators. However, Conlan's story is set in the democratic republic of the United Kingdom. As part of the "Guildford Four" he was wrongly accused of setting off a bomb over twenty years ago in London.

His notoriety has grown immeasurably since his book was made into the Oscar nominated movie, "In The Name Of The Father." He came to Concordia earlier in the week to discuss the injustices he faced in prison and his experiences since his release.

In 1974, Conlan, unemployed in Belfast, went looking for a job in London. After a fruitless search, he returned to Northern Ireland. While in London, the IRA had just begun its bombing campaign. The police, pressured by the public to arrest someone, took Conlon and three others into custody. There they endured beatings, lack of food and sleep and lived in constant fear. They were then forced to sign a confession, with the threat that if they didn't their families would be killed.

The Crown used circumstantial testimony, and never could link the four to the site of the crime.

"Although all the evidence was all circumstantial, the judge told the jury he thought we were all guilty," Conlon said.

His father Giuseppe was also arrested by British police and imprisoned on trumped-up charges of hiding explosives in his house. Ironically, the Conlon family were active supporters of Thatcher's conservative government at the time.

After his father was imprisoned, Conlon became very close to him, and thus began his active effort to clear his family's name.

In 1989, he was finally released from prison, after witnessing his father's death behind bars.

His family has never received a formal apology from the British government.

"Thatcher was away attending a human rights conference when we were released," Conlon quipped.

Conlon says he's retelling the story to help prevent future human rights abuses. He knows that what happened to him goes on every day in the third world, and isn't limited to the Irish cause.

"The last time I saw my father, I told him I would tell everyone I could about our story and the movie helped reach an unbelievable audience," Conlon said.

Conlon said that the film provided an accurate account of his story, given the constraints of a movie.

"We all have to accept that when you're dealing with such a huge period of time it has to be condensed. But they didn't deviate from the truth. It's a fair representation."

Conlan credits students for his release.

"Students are the ones who started the campaign. If it weren't for the young people, we probably would have still been in prison."

He would like to see a concerted effort by students to take up the cause of others who are wrongly imprisoned. "It's so important to write the prisoners. Everytime I received a letter my spirits would rise," he said.

Conlon believes that education is the key to improving the situation in Northern Ireland. "I didn't meet protestants until I was 18. If you don't know them, you become frightened of them," he said. He would like to see an integration of Catholics and Protestants in Northern Irish schools.

Conlon, however, doesn't blame the British for what happened to him. "British people aren't bad people. They're good, decent people but they're leaders leave a lot to be desired."

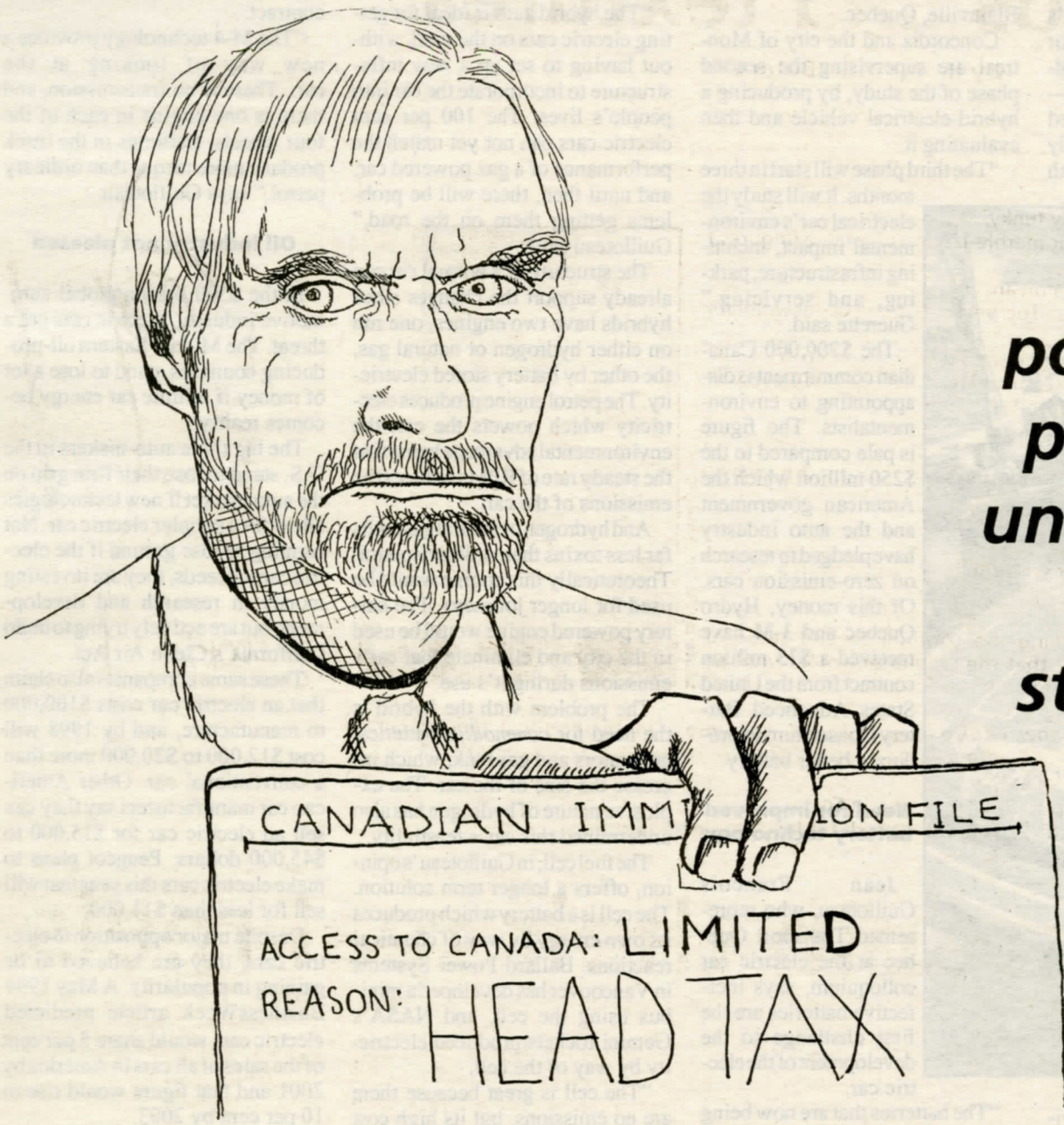
Conlon would like to eventually settle down in Ireland, but worries about personal safety. He has lived in London for the past five years.

"I want to live in Ireland and think about a future for me. I have no doubt that some lunatic could come and kill me."

However, Conlon misses the normal life he left two decades ago more than anything else.

"I don't know what a normal life is. I came out (of jail), wrote a book and ended up in Hollywood. That's anything but normal."

Dismantling Canada



More powers to provinces undermine national standards

by Carol McQueen

Paul Martin's budget leaves students in limbo. His transfer of several federal powers to the provinces has made the national student movement against federal reforms to education redundant, according to several experts.

By altering the structure of transfer payments to the provinces, making them a block sum that can be spent how the provinces see fit, the federal government may be dumping responsibility for educational standards and fee levels onto the provinces.

Students must pressure provinces

George Archer, an economics professsor at CEGEP Marinaopolis, believes that Human Resources and Development Minister Lloyd Axworthy essentially lost out to Paul Martin in the Liberal caucus. As Martin has shifted fiscal decision-making power over to the provinces, there is little room for reform at the federal level. He says students will have to begin pressuring their provincial governments.

"Students may be able to bring more pressure to bear on provincial governments than on the federal government," he said. "Provincial governments, especially in Quebec, have been very reluctant to raise tuition fees. In Quebec, it might mean students will get a better deal."

Cuts to civil service

Archer also believes that cuts to the civil service will negatively impact upon students.

"Harry who is 55 is not going to be thrown out onto the street, he's going to retire with a compensation package, but his job is not going to be replaced. Joan, who would have gotten Harry's job is not going to get," he said.

"If you shrink the size of government, there are fewer opportunities in employment. The public service was one of the few places where there were jobs on a recurring basis," Archer added.

Jalilvand of Concordia points to another problem the government did not address when downsizing its staff.

"The question is not just how much we have to cut, but how we are dealing with the long term nature of austerity so we will not have to cut more next year," he said.

Abolhassan Jalilvand, chair of Concordia's department of finance, considers education to be an essential factor in ensuring through vibrancy and efficiency that the Canadian economy will rebound. He is not sure the federal government is providing it.

"It is not spelled out very clearly what sort of a training program the government is going to provide so that people can actually bring efficiency into effect," he said.

"If we cannot educate our existing labour force to operate more efficiently, then next year or two years from now, we are back at square one," Jalilvand added.

He also wonders if universities are prepared to make students aware of the ethics of downsizing economies, so they can better respond to them.

Further draconian measures?

Archer would probably agree that universities need to prepare students for further draconian measures, as the federal government is now subject to international economic trends.

"I see the budget as an example of government decision-making by international finance. What forced the federal government to take these drastic steps was the fact that they had to," he said.

He blames the North American Free Trade Deal (NAFTA) in particular.

"This type of budget is one of the things we thought would happen because of the free trade agreement. We thought there would be a gradual harmonization between Canada and the United States," he said. "We are showing the Republicans exactly what they would like to do."

Abolhassan says Martin's budget completely redefines the role of the federal government in Canada's affairs. He argues that block transfer payments will enable provinces to make more humane decisions with regard to spending cuts as they will be able to control where the money goes.

"What Paul Martin is saying is 'I'm cutting transfer payments because I have to cut them, but I'm hoping, by giving the flexibility to the provinces to make that decision, that more efficient and more innovative decisions can be made, which is going to offset the reduction in these payments." he said.

Archer agrees that block transfer payments could be an advantage in two respects.

"First, you eliminate the double bureaucracy so you don't need to have a welfare department in each province and in Ottawa," he said.

"The second advantage is that you are putting decision-making power close to the voter," he added. "The idea being that the provincial government is much closer to the citizens of that province than the federal government is. Therefore the provincial government can better reflect public choice as to where that money is going to be spent."

Losing national standards

But Archer is not sure these advantages will outweigh the disadvantages.

"One of the advantages of the previous system is that we had national standards. We said that wherever you are in Canada, you will get roughly the same level of education, the same level of welfare, the same level of health care," he said.

"Once you get into block grants and you give up the money, you effectively give up participation. You give up the ability to determine standards. So what you will probably end up with is a patchwork of standards," Archer added. "People in poorer provinces will have poorer services. That is something which strikes at the root of a lot of what Canadian federation was all about."

Jalilvand is not as concerned with the loss of national standards. He thinks the federal government will still have a hand in decision-making.

"The federal government is not entirely taking its responsibility away either," he said. "There are going to be some guidelines the provinces are expected to adhere to."

Archer doubts the guidelines will be binding.

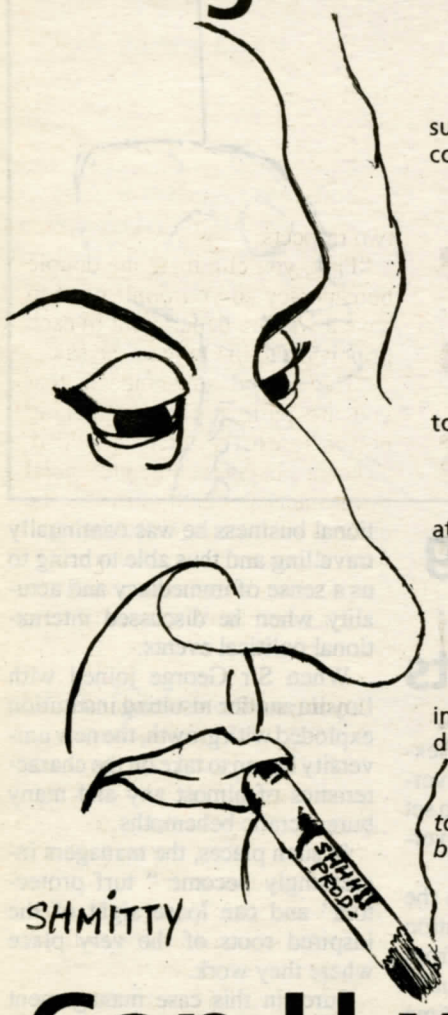
"Will the federal government have the fortitude to say, 'This is unfair. We are going to deduct money from your block grant unless you meet our requirements'? I don't think they will," he said. "I think the federal government is going to kiss its responsibility goodbye. Once you give up the authority and control, you cannot make demands anymore."

Archer says that the federal government's abdication of its responsibility toward education, health care and welfare seriously undermines the fabric of Canadian society.

"We become a country in which we are less concerned about evening out the playing field on a provincial basis and on an individual basis," he added.

Vernisage motivates art lives of imaginary friends and textures

by Halley-Ann Butera



As I stand to witness Graziano Lupusella's exhibit, I am overtaken in a trance, stimulated by my surroundings. My imaginary friends Shmitty and Cooky walk through the door, and I overhear their comments on the exhibit, titled, "Strength In Colour."

Shmitty
-Wow, Cookie! That's really funky,
(Taken back by the thematic marble-ization of female fingures.)
Cookie
-Yeah, man. I know watcha mean.
Fascinated by the strength and power that Graz gives his women.)
Shmitty
-Hey! Betcha he takes a long time to do this kinda stuff.
(Realizing the intensity of colour and texture that Graz plays with to create an other worldly depth.)
Cookie
Yeah.
(Understanding the concentration and dedication which is evident at first glance.)
Shmitty
Do ya think he'll talk to us?
(Really thinking "free beer with the invitaiton, yeah!)
Cookie
Of course, he made us up, didn't he?
(Looking at Graz and seeing the confindince and sense of inspirational accomplishment that she would remember until he dismissed her from his team of imaginary buddies.)

photo by Julien Saucier

graphic by Halley-Ann Botera

...because of this one art show, Cookie grasped an obscene sense of motivation that allowed her to becsome a genius in Quadratic equations. Meanwhile, Shmitty, captivated by the thought of free beer...

Graziano Lupusella's "Strength in Colour" exhibit is showing at La Cervoise, 4457 St. Laurent. -Watch for his "imaginary friends."

Con U women spin their real reels

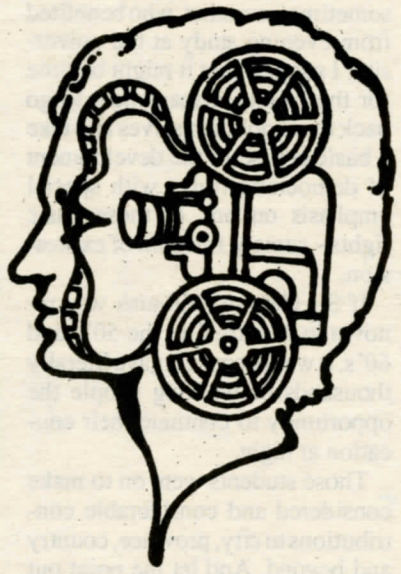
by Shira Katz

Experimental film was mixed with documentary at the opening night of the 5th Annual Women's Film, Video & Sound Festival, also known as the "How Do I Look?" festival, a collaborative effort by women in Concordia's cinema, fine arts, and communications departments. Here is a breakdown of some of the films.

The need for female bonding and solidarity is explored in *Women Artisans*, an 8-minute documentary by **Elisa Hollenberg**. In a voice-over, an 81-year-old woman who opened up a craft centre for women in Montreal describes her work at the Centre Artisanale des Femmes. Images of women creating different crafts in a common space are combined with voice-overs. In one voice-over, a younger woman at the centre explains the importance of a creative place for women to go, especially the unemployed, who need comradeship and understanding.

Issues of the women's fear and threats of violence were also included in the programme. *Squatter*, an 11-minute film by **Louise Lamarre**, deals with fear and alienation. An old woman has doubts about trusting the motives a younger, lonely man. The quality of this film is exonerated by a split-screen used to show an old woman at the front of the door of her apartment, and a man who knocking on the other side.

In *Pounding the Pavement*, **Cat Lipscombe** and **Jennifer Goodwin**'s 3-minute film, two women



engage in a choreographed self-defence dance in front of Montreal's Palais de Justice. It includes the voice-over of two women who speak about the struggle to combat violence in the streets. In the background, a man uses black paint to erase the grafitti of a message which reads "Lesbiennes revoltons nous".

In *Claire-Obscure,* a 17-minute film by **Cathy Slaamen**, a woman dealing with mental illness walks down empty hallways and walks alone through the streets of Montreal. Her fears of violence and dominate every aspect of her life. She smears blood on her back while sitting in a bathtub. She is a prisoner to her fears which has created an incurable depression.

On the lighter side, *The Paper Boy*, a 6-minute film by **Zoe Kerrigan,** is the story of a 15-year-old girl's fantasy of meeting the newspaper delivery boy. She is educated at home and is sheltered from the world. Classical music is mixed with black and white film. The girl reads books and sits by her window watching the boy throw newspapers in the snow. Her fantasy is to fall in love for the first time.

In *Solitaire*, an 11-minute black and white film by **Franca Panetta**, a man uses his computer to create a typical romance. The film is satiric and it pokes fun at typical romances. The writer narrates the story. He tries to come up with ideas to make it sound more romantic. Camera shots of actors playing out the romance are also shown.

Identity issues are explored in *Fragment*, a 17-minute experimental film by **Heidi Aufgeweut**. A moving camera pans scenery of trees and shots of people playing pool, while a voice-over describes how game rules mimic human behaviour. A young man then describes the meaning of life for him. Body image issues are also explored. The body parts of a generic barbie doll are broken into pieces and they move around in circles on the screen. A box in the middle of the screen then shows a close-up of lips which repeat phrases such as "To be a part of...To be a part of..." Interesting soundscapes and lots of repetition add a comedic quality. The barbie doll changes shape and takes the form of a more realistic woman's body type, then becomes twisted back into the type of woman's body we always see portrayed in the media.

Ruey Wei How's 11-minute *Chasing the Rainbow* highlights the story of a woman who grew up in Taiwan. She searches for her identity in Montreal. The film includes beautiful scenery of Mount Royal and of a lake. It is a slow-moving piece about a woman who walked out on her marriage. The film focuses on her expression of life and on how she sees the world.

Female sexuality is the issue of a rant given by a female in **Sandra Dametto**'s 3-minute *Confessions of a Caffeine Addict. Butt clap*, a 3-minute film by **Joelle Cion** shows a woman's revolving butt with a clapping noise. It's not a story but an artistic expression.

Admission is free for tonight's 3rd and final night of screenings which will take place at Concordia's visual Arts building (VA-114) at 6 pm. Tomorrow night they will be having a wrap-up party at the Strange Fish loft space at 10 Ontario St. suite 408. Tickets can be purchased in advance for $3 or at the door for $4. How do I Sound? will run on CKUT 90.3 FM on March 8th during Female Frequencies, 9-10 pm.

Susan Aglukark
This Child
EMI Records

by Aaron Fisher

Hailing from the arctic, this artist is a sure bet, combining rich, clear sound with lyrics that celebrate community and spirituality, Aglukark has made a real gem. Her music has a feeling that can be inspiring, liberating and even healing at times. "This child" was launched recently at the Northwest Territories legislature.. I expect it to be extremely popular across the country.

letters

The Link welcomes letters to the editor. We are committed to printing all letters which are not racist, sexist or homophobic and are signed. Letters should include a telephone number, be typed and 400 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity. Anonymity can be arranged with the editor.

Firing the mailwoman; CUSEAU history

So Lana thinks I wrote an "unnecessarily combative" letter about the CSU's attempt to bust the employees union (CUSAEU.) I would appear that Lana doesn't know the difference between combativeness and sarcasm.

Nonetheless, it is nice to see Lana back in good form in her most recent letter in the Concordian (Feb. 15, 1995), working the "who me, I'm just a democrat" angle at which she is so skilled. Really, Lana, you're very very good at that horseshit, so stay away from the working class rhetoric in the future, it shows your worst profile.

But compliments aside, let's get to your letter. You claim that CUSAEU's employer is the student body. That's kind of like saying civil servants are the employees of every Canadian citizen. Maybe I'll fire my mailwoman. My mail was late today. (And, in fact, more Canadian citizens vote in federal elections than Cocordia students vote in CSU elections by a factor of at least three, so your implicit claim to be nothing other than the lowly representative of the student body is tenuous at best.) The CSU is both the real and the contractual employer of those employees represented by CUSAEU. And to claim that the CSU "has never made any effort to subvert or destroy the employees' union" with whom you claim to have a "virtually unblemished record of cooperation" is simply a lie. The CSU never respected its contractual obligaiton to inform the union when new employees were hired. This act of willful neglect on the CSU's part played a substantial role in how the current situation evolved. The CSU also failed to hand over the dues collected from every employee's check to the union, dues that are necessary for the union to function properly. What did you do with that money, anyway?

In your somewhat one-sided summary of the current state of affairs, you forgot to mention some details that I think people would find absolutely fascinating. You forgot to mention that you were part fo the core group of employees that originally founded the union as well as its first president. (Ah! Those were the good old days, weren't they Lana?) You also neglected to mention that you were impeached from that position when a majority of union members felt that you were using your position to advance your own personal political agenda rather than the interest of the union membership you represented.

Could it be, Lana, that you have a personal axe to grind here?

In the spirit of combat, I remain your faithful servant.

(representing the 1/3 of CUSAEU's former presidents who never had to rewrite history.)

-Michael Ryan

Political science president has last last words

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the article entitled "P.S.S.A. prez quits in disgust" which appeared on Feb. 1 in the Concordian.

I am quite shocked, angered, and dismayed by some of the comments that were made about my leadership by certain members of the executive, who described me as a dictator.

Was it not this dictator who sat down in September to listen to ideas and criticisms to be incorporated into the master plan?

Upon reading your comments and finally knowing your thoughts about me, I pose this question: If I was such a tyrant, why didn't you exercise your right stipulated in the constitution under article XVIII (1) , which basically states that the president can be impeached by a petition signed by five regular members.

Why didn't you exercise this right? Why allow this association to degenerate because of the actions of a clique who believed that the president was nothing more than a petty, irrational dictator?

What many people read about this organizations just a microcosm of it's shameless legacy of childish, immature, ego-centric behavior that has left political science students with apathetic, inept leadership for years.

Our organization should be much more than a "wine and cheese" association, but serve as the hub of the community through finding out about opportunities on the job market, addressing political issues such as the cutbacks to education and not be afraid to take a stand, cooperate with our greatest resource (our professors) so that the department and the student body will grow as one entity, and have fun. This is not impossible to achieve for we can look at biology and CAUSE (English) associations as an example of serving student needs by being innovated and caring.

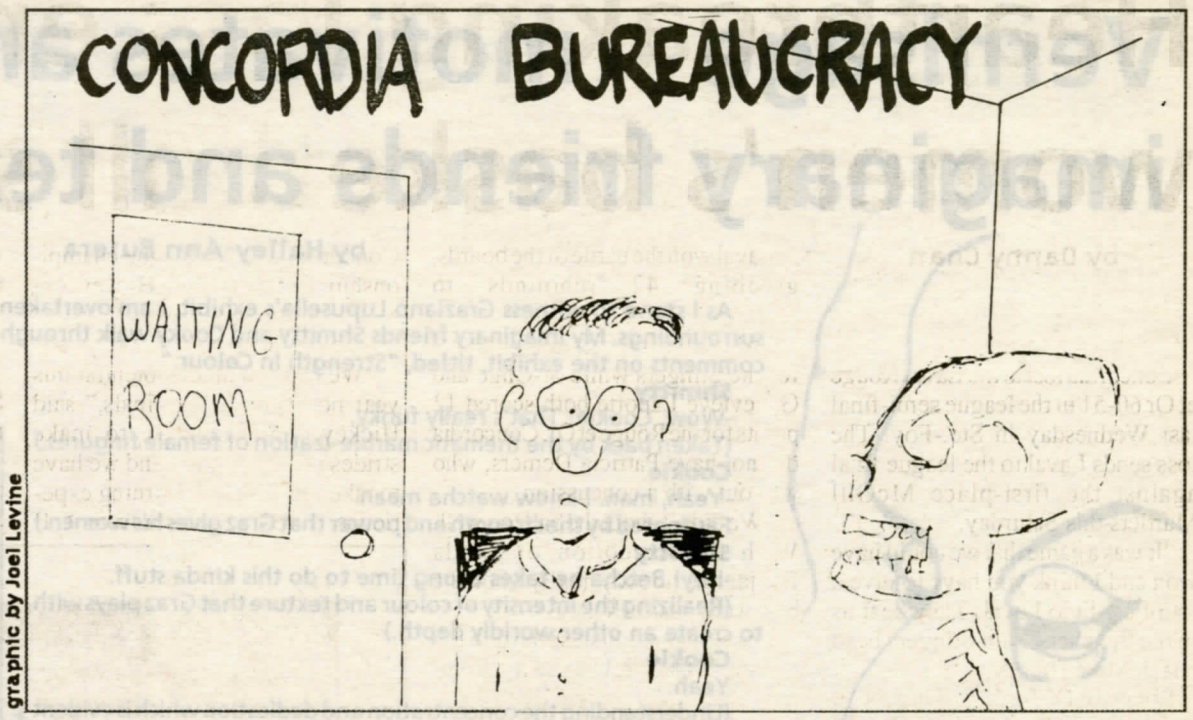
This is what I was trying to accomplish with the P.S.S.A. I looked into internship programs that are offered in Ottawa, Manitoba, B.C., and Quebec and encouraged political science students to take advantage of these programs.

As it was correctly pointed out in the article, leadership is not easy.

I am very upset that I have to resign, because I really loved what I was doing; however, it will not do the students nor myself any good if I continue to function under the infighting, boorishness and egocentrism that now exists.

It was an honor and a pleasure to serve as your president.

-Don Christopher Collymore



graphic by Joel Levine

THE LINK BY-ELECTIONS

MARCH 17
4:00 PM
H-649

Continuing education denied rights

Dear Editor:

The question is freedom of expression. The setting is a university. A teachers' union wants to set up an information booth. University management says "No!".

I was astonished to read in the Link that the Continuing Education Faculty Union was prevented from setting up an info Kiosk to publicize the dispute between part-time teachers and university management over a new contract.

As a former evening student and sometime journalist, who benefited from evening study at the university, I suggest that it might be time for the faculty management to go back to school themselves and take a basic course in the development of democratic rights with special emphasis on one of those basic rights - namely freedom of expression.

If Sir George Williams was renown in Montreal in the 50's and 60's, it was because it gave literally thousands of working people the opportunity to continue their education at night.

Those students went on to make considered and considerable contributions to city, province, country and beyond. And let me point out that many of the faculty who taught those evening classes were part-time, and in a sense were better teachers because they were part-time.

In my case, I studied political science with Thomas Hecht, a part-time lecturer. He was particularly effective because being in international business he was continually travelling and thus able to bring to us a sense of immediacy and actuality when he discussed international political events.

When Sir George joined with Loyola and the resulting institution exploded with growth, the new university began to take on the characteristics of almost any and many bureaucratic behemoths.

In such places, the managers increasingly become " turf protectors" and can loose sight of the inspired roots of the very place where they work.

Sure, in this case management are following the Quebec Labour Code. But no one legally requires them to interpret that code in its narrowest sense.

Apart from what some academics might think, students are not simply "classroom clients" who must at all costs be closed off from the reality of the workaday world while they " consume" their education like diners in an upscale restaurant.

The part-timers are making some effort to provide themselves, through negotiations, a minimal security and thus quite probably gain some small serenity to better able to teach reflectively and effectively. The students should know about the conditions under which their teachers work. And what better place to learn but where they learn.

A university, especially one with Concordia's links to the working man and woman, should be open to education in its widest and fullest sense.

It should not become some private hot house run by and for the benefit of those who tend to tend only their own gardens.

-Donald Hendry

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Concordia University
Hall Building, Room 649
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.
Montreal, Quebec. H3G 1M8
editorial: 848-7405• business: 848-7406
fax: 848-4540
e-mail: thelink@alcor.concordia.ca

editor Ingrid Hein
production manager Michelle Loubert (interim)
news editors Jennifer Ditchburn, Carol McQueen
features editor Paul Hainsworth
literary editor Connie C. Wu(interim)
archivist Daria Gamliel
sports editor Marie-Chantal Côté
fringe arts editors Sean Moore, Jon Richler
photo editor Justin Rochefort
Julien Saucier (interim)
graphics editor Open
CUP editor Mitchell Amihod
business manager Alice O'Brien
business assistant Charlene Nero
advertising sales Anuska Garcia, Charlene Nero
advertising design Mark Brooker
distribution Gaurav Chandra, Ita Kendall

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Contributors
Deanna Beltsis, Halley-Ann Butera, Danny Chan, Reid Cooper, Heather Ednie, Shari Ann Fleming, Derek Fong, Aaron Fisher, Barney Hines, Shira Katz, Jeff Melbourne, Geneviève Napier, Tim Pryor, the purple pie man

Heartbreaking loss ends women's basketball season

by Danny Chan

The season is over for the women's basketball team.

Concordia lost to the Laval Rouge et Or 60-51 in the league semi-final last Wednesday in Ste.-Foy. The loss sends Laval to the league final against the first-place McGill Martlets this Saturday.

"It was a game that we could have won and I think you have to give a lot of credit to Laval. They beat us in the trenches," said Stingers head coach Mike Hickey.

Rouge et Or Josée St-Onge's 10 first-half points gave Laval a 31-28 lead at the half. Concordia had a five-point lead in the second half but could not hold on as the Rouge et Or scored eight points in the last two minutes to win 60-51.

Laval won the battle of the boards, grabbing 42 rebounds to Concordia's 26. Linda Benjamin and Sharon Sandy each scored 11 points for the Stingers while St-Onge and Genevieve Laporte both scored 12 points for the Rouge et Or. Concordia did not have Patricia Demers, who was out with a concussion.

"We didn't shoot the ball too well. With the exception of Linda Benjamin, nobody really shot the ball well," said Hickey.

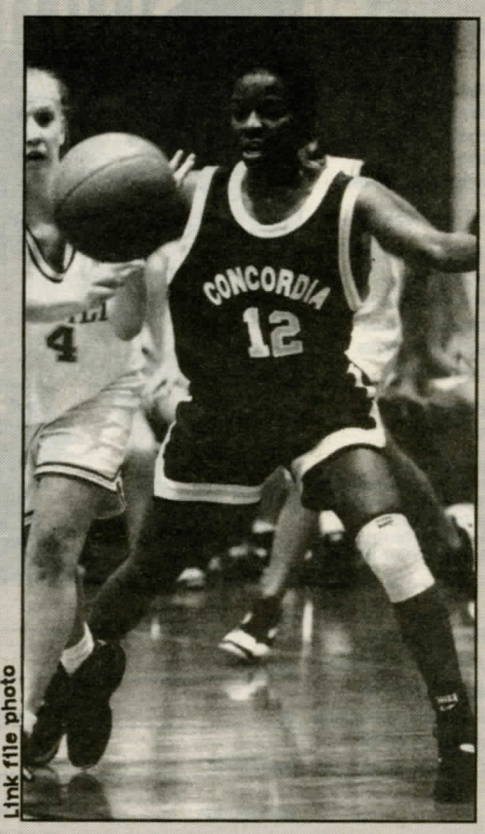
The Stingers finished third in the four-team Quebec University Women's Basketball League with a 6-6 record, despite starting the season 0-3. Hickey said the poor start was the difference between finishing third and finishing higher in the standings and enjoying home-court advantage in the semi-finals. Concordia won the league championship last year and Hickey expected the team to do better in the league this season.

"We had too much potential this year not to be in the finals," said Hickey. "We continue to make strides in the program and we have to take this loss as a learning experience. We have to gain from it. If we do that—and as painful as it is—then it's part of the development process."

• • •

Stingers Sharon Sandy, Eva Samoré, and Patricia Demers were named league first-team all-stars. They joined McGill's Vicky Tessier and Yolaine Masse of Laval. On the Stingers men's team, Emerson Thomas, who led the league in scoring with 184 points, was named league MVP and named to the first all-star team. He joins teammates Maxime Bouchard and Gaetan Prosper, along with McGill's Chad Wozney and Rob Burns of Bishop's. Concordia forward Jean-Pierre Reimer was named to the second all-star team.

Link file photo



Link file photo

Stingers Jean-Pierre Reimer (left) and Sharon Sandy (right) were named respectively to the second and first Quebec Student Sports Federation's All-Star teams.

Briefs

• At the national wrestling championships in Calgary, David Wilson, in the heavyweight category, finished fourth, Jason Della Rocca, in the 82 Kilos, finished fifth, and Jordan Dimitrov, in the 90 Kilos, finished fifth.

• Concordia's men's track team finished fourth at the Provincial Championships in Sherbrooke, last weekend. Marc Price finished fifth in the 600 metres while he finished fourth in the 1000 metres. Leslie Heller finished third in the pole vault, the shot put and the 60-metres hurdles. He also finished second in the high jump.

• For the women's team, Sheily Flaro finished third in the shoot out.

Sports environment tough on gay athletes

by Phil Hutchins

TORONTO (CUP)—It's a story rarely told.

A mediocre athlete's struggle to make the tough transition to 'starter'—the creme of the crop of athletes in the country. And the knowledge that you have made it—that you are truly good.

One athlete has been fighting this struggle for almost two years. Not a Jordan or a Gretzky, but this young athlete has the features of an All-American boy. Tall and strong.

He works out two hours a day at practice, as well as lifting weights on a regular basis. This year could be his. Improving so much since last year, he is on the verge of making it here at York University.

But this athlete is fighting more than just his opponents or his teammates for positioning on the floor. He faces daily struggles, more than most, which could be the toughest to face this early in life. He is gay.

For fear of problems with his teammates, his friends, his parents, he has asked that we withhold his name. We will call him Marc.

Marc finally came out to some friends in December.

After spending eight years with countless women, he came to a point in his life which he felt could not continue. Marc had repressed the feelings he had for men since puberty and finally came out of the closet.

"I went to a [gay] club with a friend," recalled Marc. "When I went there I thought it would be like the Blue Oyster, [people all in leather], but there were straight-acting people, like me there.

Looking back, it was the best thing that ever happened to me. It felt like I found myself when I went into that club."

Marc believes that since he came out in December, he has played better, as well as feel better.

Marc later joined the Bisexual Lesbian and Gay Association At York (BLGAY) and still attends meetings there every other week.

But all has not been rosy for Marc. Problems were bound to surface being a gay varsity athlete. Road trips, social activities with the team and the locker room can create some tense moments.

After each game, Marc must be aware of his actions. When he is in the locker room with the other players (who are traditionally very carefree with their bodies), he must be extremely cautious.

"I always made an effort not to look [at the other guys]," said Marc. "I'm always looking away, I feel as though I have to."

Some problems occurred when the team went out on a road trip together. At a bar one night, the team was partying together and talking about girls, and Marc, was forced to play along.

Varsity athletes, who are known for their 'good looks' and 'healthy appearances' are expected to be 'womanizers, male sluts.' In fact, fulfilling all the duties of the pro-athlete.

This is where Marc, and other gay athletes are isolated and feel most uncomfortable.

But the problems arising with the team, will not equal the ones that he will face when he comes out to his family. Marc believes that this will be the hardest element to deal with.

Coming out in December, Marc's thoughts have now hovered around homophobia and gay bashing to AIDS.

"[Gay male intercourse] is the easiest way to get AIDS," said Marc. "But a lot of people who have been repressed for years finally come out and don't know what to do. They get drunk, sleep with the first person they see, have sex without a condom. It was a fear of mine."

His other fears are still around. When he walks off the court, he must again address the issue of being a gay male in a homophobic society. Marc's fears though, go beyond homophobes or gay bashers; his fears circulate around the future with his family.

"[My fear] is that my brother wouldn't look up to me anymore, my parents would disown me, and the team wouldn't accept me anymore," said Marc. "My biggest fear is walking into a game and feeling uncomfortable. I would play terrible and would have to quit, that would be my biggest fear."

And that is the biggest fear for most gay athletes, quitting the sport they love because of their sexual orientation.

But these problems seem minute these days. Whether he is accepted by his friends, his team and most importantly, his family, for the first time in his life, Marc has accepted himself. He has finally come to grips with his sexual orientation. He is no longer playing the role of the All- American boy—Tall, Strong, straight.

"I feel very relaxed for the first time in my life," said Marc. "Now I've come out, I've been more confident with myself and I've played a lot better. You can't change who you are. I repressed [being gay] for eight years. Those are wasted years. My life starts now. This is just another challenge to overcome."

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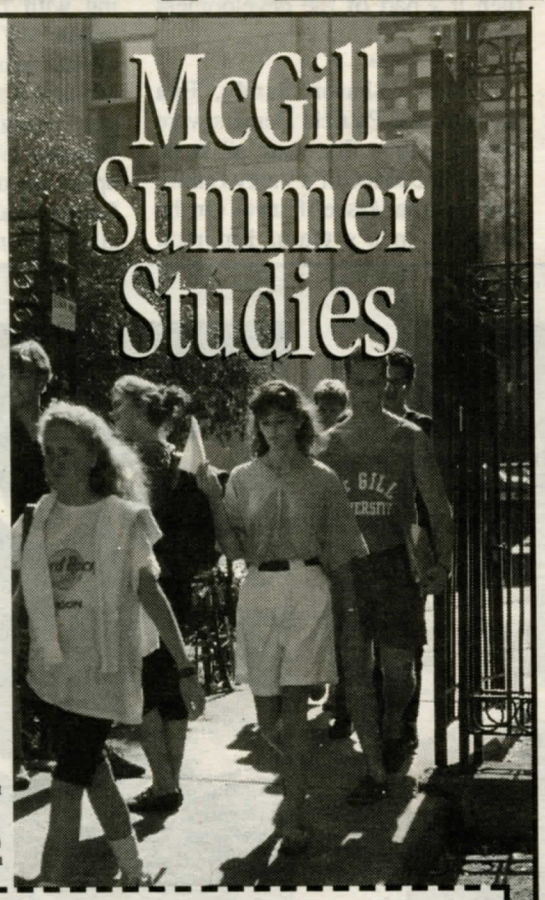

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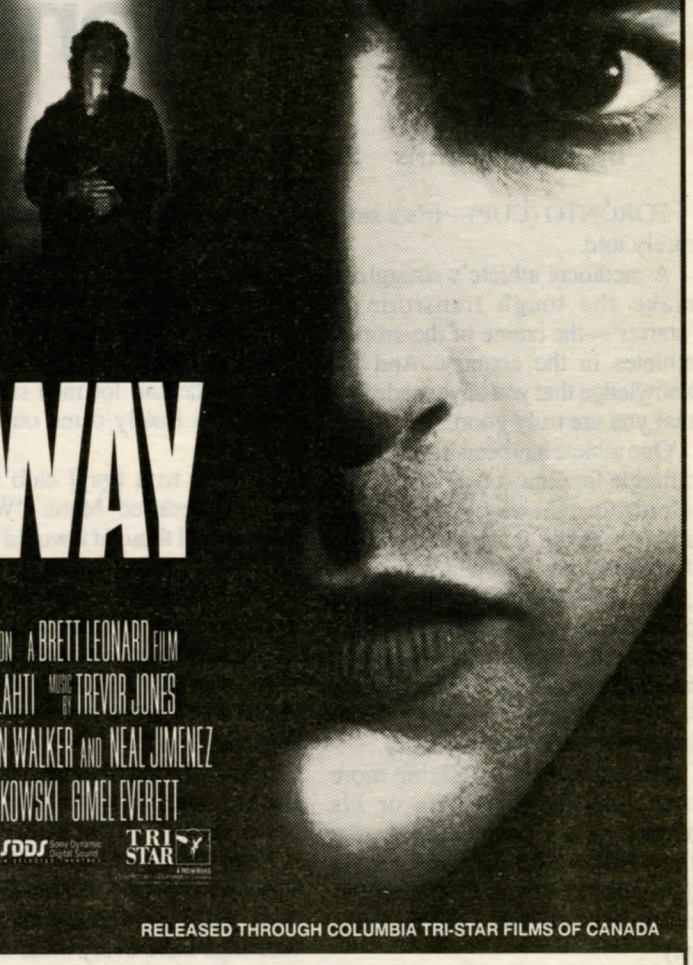

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